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CONTRACT ACTIONS TAKEN ON RIVER PROTECTION PROJECT

The U.S. Department of Energy Office of River Protection (ORP) today issued a notice to BNFL Inc., terminating its privatization contract for waste treatment and immobilization services at Hanford. ORP also issued a letter tasking its existing contractor, CH2M HILL Hanford Group Inc., to perform certain portions of the work on an interim basis. This action was taken to allow continuation of the design effort while a contract for the design and construction of a waste treatment facility is competed. The termination notice provides for the transition of activities from BNFL Inc. to CH2M HILL Hanford Group Inc., and is expected to take place over the next 60 days.

As directed by Energy Secretary Richardson, ORP plans to issue a Request for Proposals in August 2000, and select a replacement contractor by January 15, 2001, for the design and construction of the Hanford tank waste treatment facility.

ORP's decision to task CH2M HILL Hanford Group to do the interim work will facilitate the Department's commitment to a full and open procurement, and to continue the design work in the interim. CH2M HILL Hanford Group is expected to offer employment or subcontract opportunities to the existing design team employees that wish to stay with the project. CH2M HILL Hanford Group will not be permitted to compete in the procurement for the design and construction of the Hanford tank waste treatment facility.

"The goal of the Office of River Protection remains the same," said Dick French, Manager, Office of River Protection, "completion of the retrieval, treatment and disposal of Hanford tank waste in accordance with the Department's commitments to the State of Washington and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency under the Tri-Party Agreement. We're taking these actions to keep momentum going toward successful completion of that goal."

Note: The Office of River Protection was created by Congress in 1998 to manage the nation's largest and most complex environmental cleanup project - retrieval and treatment of tank waste at the Hanford Site. The Office of River Protection oversees the work of the River Protection Project.

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